
WTO and Agriculture

What's at Stake for Ohio?

Ohio is an important producer of agricultural products and a major exporter. In 1997, Ohio ranked 13th among all 50 states in the value of its agricultural exports. The state's exports reached an estimated \$1.4 billion, up from \$1 billion in 1991. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 17,700 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, transportation and manufacturing. Exports are important to Ohio's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports ranged from 24% to 33% since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1997 were:

- # soybeans and products -- \$610 million
- # feed grains and products -- \$270 million
- # wheat and products -- \$193 million
- # vegetables and preparations -- \$56 million
- # live animals and red meats -- \$32 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Ohio's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Ohio Producers Benefit from Trade Agreements

Ohio is already benefitting from a number of agricultural trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of new market opportunities for Ohio include:

- # Ohio, the nation's 5th largest soybean producer, benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan reduces its tariffs on soybean oil 36% by 2000. Indonesia agreed to eliminate its blending requirement for soybean meal by 1998.
- # The nation's 10th largest feed corn producer, Ohio benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan increases its 3.75-million-ton zero duty quota for feed corn by 450,000 tons by 2000. South Korea is lowering its in-quota tariff on feed corn and popcorn from 3% to 1.8% from 1995 to 2005. Korea will also reduce tariffs on mixed animal feeds from 7% to 4.2%.
- # Ohio, an important producer of wheat and products, benefits under the Uruguay Round from a 33% reduction in the quantity of EU wheat receiving export subsidies by 2000. Japan is expanding its 5,530,000 ton tariff-rate quota by 35,000 tons annually from 1995 to 2000.

